



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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Joint ICE, DEA probe leads to nearly 30-year sentence for ecstasy trafficker

LOS ANGELES - A Paramount, California man was sentenced today to 352 months in federal prison for his conviction on federal narcotics trafficking charges related to his importation of 200,000 doses of ecstasy following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Vince Edward Wilson, 41, received the 29 $\frac{1}{3}$ -year sentence from United States District Judge Robert M. Takasugi.

In December, Wilson was found guilty of 13 drug trafficking and weapons charges. The federal jury that heard the case found Wilson guilty of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, conspiracy to import a controlled substance into the United States, multiple counts of importation of a controlled substance into the United States, use of a firearm to facilitate a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The charges resulted from Wilson's participation in a conspiracy that was responsible for importing more than 100 pounds of 3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine – also known as MDMA and typically called ecstasy – into the United States from Belgium. Wilson recruited a 19-year-old woman and sent her to Belgium to obtain the ecstasy. The woman shipped the drugs to the United States hidden in children's stuffed animals that had been hollowed out.

When Wilson's residence was searched at the conclusion of the case, law enforcement agents found more than 30 pounds of ecstasy, three loaded firearms, and \$36,000 in cash.

At today's sentencing hearing, Judge Takasugi noted that Wilson had several prior felony convictions in which he used a firearm, including one in which he held a loaded gun to the head of a department store clerk during a robbery. The Judge stated that a lengthy sentence was necessary to protect the public from Wilson.

ICE